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Message Text

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44-S
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /055 W
---------- 124730
R 311415Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 12610

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, IN,SUP
SUBJ: REPORT ON PLANS FOR B.P. KOIRALA

REF: STATE 211865

1. THE REPORT CITED REFTEL IMPLIES A BASIC CHANGE IN GOI POLICY, EVIDENCE OF WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN HERE. UNLESS COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, A COUP WHICH WAS SUPPORTED OR ACQUIESCED IN BY THE GOI AND WHICH BEGAN WITH AN ARMED UPRISING IN NEPALESE TOWNS BORDERING INDIA WOULD RESULT IN GRAVE DETERIORATION IN INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS. THOSE RELATIONS ARE SUPERFICIALLY GOOD ENOUGH AT THE MOMENT; INDIA HAS JUST MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEM BY MEANS OF THE KING'S VISIT, AND IT BELIEVES THIS EFFORT WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY SUCCESS-IGUL.

2. THE NEPALESE HERE, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR WHO JUST RETURNED FROM DISCUSSING THE VISIT WITH THE KING IN KATHMANDU, ALSO FEEL THE VISIT WENT WELL. A BASIS FOR FRANK EXCHANGE WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE KING AND MRS. GANDHI, AND THE NEPALESE GOT FAIRLY STRGLNG REASSURANCES FROM THE INDIANS THAT THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE HOSTILE ACTIVITY FROM INDIA TERRITORY BY THE NEPALI CONGRESS. ALTHOUGH THE INDIANS REFUSED TO AGREE TO A "CORDON SANITAIRE" FROM WHICH NEPALI CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE EXCLUDED ON THE INDIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER (AND AMBASSADOR MALLA SAYS THE INDIANS HAVE NOT
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SINCE INDICATED ANY CHANGE IN THAT LINE), THE CBNG SAID THAT

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NEPAL WOULD HOLD THE INDIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TERRORIST
OR CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY BY THE EAPALI CONGRES AND THE
INDIANS ACCEPTED THIS.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, INDIA WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT
TO LOSE BY ALLOWING SUCH AN UPRISING. ON THE
BASIS OF WHAT WE KNOW HERE, THE RISK DOESN'T APPEAR WORTH
IT. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD INDIA BELIEVE THAT OPPOSITION
TO BIRENDRA WAS SO WIDESPREAD THAT A KOIRALA REVOPI WAS
VERY LIKELY TO SUCCEED, IT MIGHT GO THE OTHER WAY. INDIA
CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEPALESE POLITICAL SYSTEM
WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE LIXHRALIZED AND THAT THE NEPALI
CONGRESS TRULY REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL. IT HAS
SUPPORTED NEPALI CONGRESS UPRISINGS ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS,
ALTHOUGH IN A VERY DIFFERENT DECADE OF INDO-NEPALI RELATIONS.

IT WILL DO SO AGAIN IF IT BELIEVES ITS INTEREST REQUIRES
IT. HOWEVER, TO REPEAT, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT INDIA
CURRENTLY FEELS ITS INTERESTS REQUIRE SUCH DRASTIC STEPS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE12610
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabge.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 211865
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT ON PLANS FOR B.P. KOIRALA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, IN, (KOIRALA, B P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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